(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) As per details at (a) above.

(f) In Delhi calls on 198 as well as xxx 2198 are handled by the respective exchanges at the same place and there is therefore no difference in response time. However, in Bombay 198 is a centralised service while xxx 2198 is decentralised exchange-wise. Therefore, response time on xxx 2198 is slightly better at Bombay than 198.

(g) Regular monitoring and surprise checks are carried out by the senior officers.

(h) to (k) The fault clearance operations including pending/carried over faults are constantly monitored by the officer including the Area GMS and necessary remedial measures taken. Most of the faults are cleared by the following day except in case of cable faults due to cable breakdowns or cable thefts.

Examination for amateur station operator's licence

889. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some examination namely Amateur Station Operator's Licence was conducted by the Ministry in recent past;

(b) whether the examinees were trained by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in collaboration of some Club;

(c) if so, the details thereof with criteria fixed for joining this course;

(d) whether the course is job oriented;

(e) whether some duration of this course has also been fixed;

(f) whether these courses are conducted six times in a year; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Amateur Station Operators' Certificate (ASOC) Examinations for grant of various categories of Amateur Station Operators' Licenses are being conducted, periodically at different places in India by the field offices of the Wireless Monitoring Organisation, under this Ministry.

(b) to (g) Amateur Station Operators' Licence is granted for the purpose of pursuing the internationally recognised hobby in the field of "radio" which is popularly called as amateur radio or HAM Radio.

The late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was a licensed Radio Amateur. Rajiv Gandhi Foundation has, therefore, taken up the activity of promotion of amateur radio. This Foundation is having an amateur station licensed as a Club station.

This Foundation conducts courses for training of persons interested in taking amateur radio, as hobby. This training enables to appear for the ASOC Examinations conducted by this Ministry, which are not job-oriented.

As regards training of persons who undertake the ASOC Examinations, other than prescribing the syllabus for conducting the ASOC Examinations, this Ministry is in no way involved in matters like conduct of training, its duration, frequency, etc.

Plans for Additional Telephone Lines in Delhi and Bombay

890. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up some ambitious plan to